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author's discussion of dollar credits in the Addendum, though presenting the probably sound conclusion, does not seem to the writer to do full justice to that subject. Since most of the reasoning is based upon pre-war experience, a chapter on foreign exchanges during the war would not seem out of place. Exchanges between gold standard and silver standard countries (also countries with depreciated paper) do not receive treatment; it would seem desirable to consider them at least in relation to the speculative aspect of foreign exchange. Perhaps in view of Spalding's able discussion of the eastern exchanges, Professor Whitaker felt that this subject should be left to more advanced studies. There is, of course, plenty of room for difference of opinion as to whether these should be considered in a general treatment of the subject.

Not the least of the merits of the volume is the fact, that it is very well written throughout, that it is replete with illustrations which clarify obscure points, and that great effort has been put forth to obtain precision of statement. The writer believes that Professor Whitaker has given us a comprehensive, well-balanced, lucid exposition of a difficult subject; and that this study should be of interest to bankers, merchants, and economists generally.

L. C. SORRELL

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The Expansion of Europe, A History of the Foundations of the Modern World. By WILLIAM CORTEZ ABBOTT. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 2 Vols. Pp. xxi+512, xiii+463.

The term Expansion of Europe has usually been understood to mean the extension of European influence and the spread of European civilization into regions beyond the geographical frontiers of what we used to call the European continent. Professor Abbott in his two volumes which have appeared under that title has not used it in that sense. What he has really undertaken to do is to write a history of European civilization the world over from the end of the Middle Ages to the French Revolution. His interpretation of the term civilization is as broad almost as may be. It includes matters political, religious, and economic, it includes the arts and the sciences, mathematics and philosophy, prose and poetry, music and painting, furniture and wearing apparel. Nothing human is quite foreign to Professor Abbott. He ranges the world from China to Peru, and runs the whole gamut of human interests from the mysteries of transubstantiation to Shakespeare and the musical glasses.

The program is an enormous one and Professor Abbott is to be congratulated for his courage in attempting it within the scope of something less than a thousand pages. Of course he makes no pretense at an exhaustive treatment, yet he does not confine himself to sweeping generalities. It is a little hard to discover to just what group of the reading public his book is addressed. It is readable enough, but it takes altogether too much knowledge for granted to invite the casual reader. For the same reason, although it is well furnished with rubrics and contains a good working bibliography, it will hardly serve the purpose of a textbook. On the other hand it is rather too elementary in character for the advanced student. Considered simply as a *tour de force* it is a remarkable contribution to historical literature. Few American historians at any rate could have gathered together in the same space so much heterogeneous material with so much artistic skill. As one reads one is irresistibly reminded of a mosaicist laboring to cover a given surface with innumerable awkwardly shaped pieces of different colored stone. Professor Abbott has covered his surface. It is amazing how neatly he contrives to fit in the odds and ends. The pity of it is that he has failed to bring out his design. In his subtitle he assumed a mandate to disclose the foundations of the modern world. It would have been a job worth doing. A broad survey of that tangled period in the history of European civilization which lies between the Renaissance and the French Revolution with a view to singling out from it those facts and those forces which have been chiefly instrumental in determining the character of our contemporary world would have been very serviceable both to the layman and to the student. But Professor Abbott has not done it. What he has done is to condense the old-fashioned political history of the period just enough to make room for a little about religion, a very little about economic life, a good brief survey of early colonial history, and a fair résumé of the history of science and art and letters. To be sure he has blended these matters together rather more adroitly than is usual, yet the facility of his style serves merely to smother for the moment the confusion of mind which so great a mass of facts ultimately produces. We are grateful for such skilful guidance through such a maze, but what we set out in search for we do not find. On the last page we are still wondering what, in short, were the foundations of the modern world.

The best parts of the book are those which deal with England. Professor Abbott knows his English history well and he handles it with the assurance of a master. His analysis of the seventeenth-century

struggle in England, for example, is brilliantly suggestive. It is to be regretted, however, that he has not only exaggerated the importance of England, but also has too often assumed, particularly in matters economic, that what was true of England was true of Europe at large. His whole discussion of economic life is indeed very unsatisfactory. It hardly ever carries him below the level of the bourgeoisie. Of the great movements which determined the destiny of millions of humbler folk, like the enclosure movement in eighteenth-century England, or the development of serfdom in eighteenth-century Russia, he has hardly a word. Naturally he could not cover everything in the space at his command, but he might well have asked himself whether matters like these were not after all more significant than the details of explorations in the new world or of dynastic rivalries in the old. Quite possibly the question never suggested itself to him.

His point of view in general belongs to the time before the common lot of the common man commanded much attention from respectable historians. Most of us find ourselves spinning around on a world in which the poor man looms larger than the rich man, the untutored many than the learned few; in which trade unions are more effective than learned societies, capitalists more powerful than princes, and class conflicts more menacing than dynastic rivalries. But the modern world which Professor Abbott had before him when he undertook to disclose its foundations was evidently not this one.

CONYERS READ

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Democracy and Assimilation. By JULIUS DRACHSLER, New York: Macmillan Co. Pp. xii+275.

Professor Drachsler has undertaken to present what he calls a "synthetic" theory of immigration. The two views now current which he regards as having any scientific basis, (1) that of the economist who holds immigration as primarily and essentially an economic problem, and (2) that of the sociologist who sees it as above all a racial and cultural one, he attempts to relate.

An immigration policy should in Professor Drachsler's opinion provide for scientific selection, distribution, and incorporation. All three of these he points out have an economic, as well as an educational or cultural aspect. It is the problem of "incorporation"—the word assimilation used in the title of the book is generally avoided in the discussion—that is Professor Drachsler's theme and which he regards as